श्री प्रेम गुप्ता: सर, यह जो एग्रीमेंट किया गया, श्री आई० के० गुजराल के टाइम में किया गया। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री लालू प्रसाद: सर, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारा राज्य बिहार इससे सबसे ज्यादा प्रभावित है।

श्री सभापति: वह तो होगा, आप बार्डर पर हैं न।

श्री लालू प्रसाद: माननीय डा० कर्ण सिंह जी के ससुराल का नुकसान हम लोग क्यों उठाएंगे? मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि इसके कारण बिहार को टैक्स का नुकसान हो रहा है और वहां की इंडस्ट्री सिक हो रही हैं। नेपाल को भी आप प्रोटेक्ट कर रहे हैं, नेपाल की जनता और सरकार का इसमें कोई मतलब नहीं है। यह तो खाली लेबलिंग का मामला है। इसलिए हमारा जो टैक्स का गैप है, जो टैक्स की कमी हो रही है, हमारा कहना है कि टैक्स का वह कम्पनसैशन आप बिहार सरकार को दीजिए। इसका क्या इंतजाम करेंगे? आप मधेपुरा से आते हैं लेकिन जब बिहार की बात होती है तो आप कहते हैं कि मेरे हाथ बंधे हैं। यह जो गैप हो रहा है, आपकी Treaty की वजह से बिहार को जो नुकसान हो रहा है, उसको पूरा करने का इरादा है या नहीं?

श्री शरद यादव: सभापति महोदय, यह सवाल दो देशों के बीच का है। मैं माननीय कर्ण सिंह जी की बात से सहमत हूं कि हमारा एक ही मित्र देश है। ये कह रहे हैं कि हम बिहार से आते हैं तो हम इनकी दया पर नहीं आते हैं। बिहार हमारा भी है और इनका भी है। उसके लिए हमें भी उतनी ही चिंता है, जितनी इनको है। जो कस्टम विभाग है, जो फाइनेंस डिपार्टमेंट है, उनको मैंने इस बारे में लिखा है। मैं इस बात को pursue कर रहा हूं कि आपके यहां जो दिक्कत है, वह दूर हो और राजस्व में आपको कम से कम घाटा हो।

श्री लालू प्रसाद: कंपनसेशन क्या दे रहे हैं?

श्री शरद यादव: कंपनसेशन तो हमारे हाथ में नहीं है।

High security registration plates

*149. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:#

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after February 28, 2003 purchasers of

#The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Abu Asim Azmi

new vehicles would have to shell out on additional Rs. 1500 for high security registration plates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) on what grounds the new system of number plates had been introduced; and

(d) the number of the companies which have been authorised to manufacture these plates and in what manner these companies have been selected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The price of the High Security Registration Plates would be known only after the competitive process through which the selection of vendor/vendors is to be made. This is required to be done by the States/Union Territories. Use of the High Security Registration Plates in respect of new vehicles is envisaged with effect from 1.1.2004. Existing vehicles would have a period of two years thereafter to convert.

(c) The Technical Standing Committee on Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, constituted in the year 1997 had recommended the introduction of High Security Registration Plates having a number of security features which would make their removal, tampering or counterfeiting difficult, thereby enhance the security of motor vehicles.

(d) As on date eight number of prospective vendors have obtained type approval certificates from the authorized testing agencies, none of which are under the administrative purview of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Prospective vendors have to get their product type approved by one of the testing agencies notified by the Government. It is up to the concerned State Government to select a vendor/vendors for supplying these plates from amongst those who have obtained the type approval.

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that new number plates have been made compulsory even for the old vehicles. If so, what is the number of old vehicles at present and what is the rationale behind this decision?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, these high security number plates are to be implemented with effect from 1st January, 2004. All the new vehicles that will be registered from that date onwards will have to have these plates. Thereafter, within another two years, the existing vehicles will also be required to have these registration plates. The logic is that whatever safety and security features are required, they are required for all the vehicles and not for the new vehicles only.

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Sir, my second supplementary is: what are the details of the orders placed with each company for the supply of new plates and, in what manner the allocation has been made?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Let me clarify the procedure. I think there is incomplete knowledge about the procedure. As far as the Central Government is concerned, we do only three things. We lay down the specifications or the standards. We identify the testing agencies. There are five testing agencies, which have been identified. These are belonging to various Ministries and not to my Ministry and thirdly, we fix the date by which these will be implemented.

As far as the selection of vendors, the tender document, the contracts to be given and other various jobs are concerned, all this is to be dealt with totally by the States. Therefore, I can only give the names of the people or the firms who have so far acquired the test approvals but I cannot give the details as to who have or who have not been given. In any case, presently nothing is happening because the matter is pending in the Supreme Court.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 150.

Landline telephone connections in Mumbai

*150. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the landline connections of MTNL and other private telephone operators in Mumbai; and

(b) the number of telephone connections disconnected by MTNL in Mumbai from January, 2001 to 31st December, 2002?